

**Mendham Township Environmental Commission (EC)
Minutes November, 21 2016**

Attending: Chair Rich Cotter
Terri Cosentino, Brian Boden, Alex Battey Sue Schmerler, John Mallon, Ralph Rhodes

Rich distributed the agenda and agreed to take the minutes. Minutes for the October 2016 meeting were accepted. These minutes are posted on the Township Hall bulletin board and Township website.

Schiff Up Date: Alex Battey reviewed the past history of land acquisition at Schiff which stands today at approximately 800 acres. He indicated that the philosophy at Schiff was now changing from land acquisition to one of sustainability. The future will focus on investment in infrastructure as Schiff has a good number of trails and at least four structures that require maintenance and use strategies. The Schiff board has lost some traditional members and has also acquired a number of new members. Alex indicated he hoped to get additional members with scientific backgrounds, such as high school science teachers.

Alex indicated his wish to work in partnership with the EC on issues of common interests. He spoke of previous joint work as an example putting crossing stones on local waterways to complete trail crossing. Teri brought up an Idea "A Walk the Trails Day" or "Bicycling the Trails Day" as a potential partnership project happening on Arbor Day (April 29th). Terri will follow up with Schiff and the Township on this idea. Alex is an energetic new leader at Schiff and we look forward working with him in the future.

Treasurer's Report: Rich and Susan discussed the issue raised by Sara Dean as to the need to submit a request directly to the Township for the 2017 EC Budget In November. Sue agreed to follow up with the CFO. The EC will follow up with whatever the Township Requires

Well Testing Summery: Teri went over the results from the fall and first well testing done in the Township. As the results she reviewed are not easily summarize so I will include the preliminary results with this report. The Raritan Headwaters Group is preparing a more in depth report available to the EC in the near future.

A discussion was held as to whether we should have another well testing event in the spring, as the response to our first event was well received. The EC group was in favor and Teri will discuss it with the Raritan River. Chromium & cadmium may be the new issues in water contamination related possibly to Autism

Open Space: The discussion on this area centered on vigilance in the open space areas. As we are now aware of events at Buck Hill Open Space and the remaining trash. We discussed posting these areas for Littering, and visiting them more regular in an organized fashion. EC asked Ralph to put together a list of the trails in our open space areas so that we could devise a plan to visit them on a more regular basis. The EC is waiting for some feedback from Diana Brown and the Township Committee on the issues raised on the Mosel Preserve at previous EC meetings.

Raritan Headwaters Association (RHA): Year round river testing of impaired sites is now in place. RHA will be shifting to new standards based on federal vs. state standards. This will increase the number of impaired sites going forward for the river improvement program. For those interested the "State of the Watershed Conference" will be held in Califon on December 3rd.

Planning Board, Board of Ad & TRC: Jamie was not present so no report was made. However, the EC is not aware of any urgent issues.

NJ Freshwater Wetland Protection Program: No notices.

Recycling: Discussions with the borough EC to do a combined Styrofoam recycling event after Christmas was rejected by the borough DPW. John Mallon will try to talk to the head of the Borough DPW to see if he could change this mind. Rich will talk to the Township to have our own Styrofoam recycling day during Christmas Week.

Somerset Hills Garden Club Grants: John Mallon has indicated that Wicklow landscaping will do the planting without charging for labor. Now the EC must come up with the funding for the material to be planted. John we should get an estimate from Wicklow for the plants.

Emerald Ash Borer: Jamie was not present so no EC progress report. However, Diana Brown has indicated by e-mail to the EC that this is an important issue and is working at the Township Committee level to mobilize the Township to the coming impact. She would like the township to do an Ash Tree survey and has asked the EC to contact the Township Tree Committee and see where they are with this important impending issue. Jamie should follow up.

EC Record Storage: The Township Library indicated it would review the EC request for record storage space in the near future.

Eagle Scouts and Projects: Ralph indicated the EC has few candidates. Alex Battey indicated that Schiff's has a stable of Eagle and Star candidates and indicated Schiff would be willing to work with the EC in this area.

Adopt-A-Byway: As no progress has taken place on this program as it may be too formal. The EC discussed the idea that the EC would identify areas within the Township that the EC would actually conduct the clean up. First identified area was the retention pond in Drakewick. Brian indicated he would discuss the proposal with the Drakewick Homeowner's Association to conduct the clean up.

Two Questions were raised at this EC meeting 1) does the Township have a Deer management program? John Mallon indicates in the affirmative. 2) Does the Township have an Invasive Species Ordinance? EC will follow up to get an answer.

Next meeting: December 19, 2016 7:30 PM

Mendham Township Community Well Testing Results

10/17/16

Coliform: 44 tests, 6 Failures, 0 E. Coli, 13.6% failure rate

Nitrates: 43 tests, 0 Failures, Average result: 2.34 mg/L, 0% failure rate

Iron: 12 tests, 2 failures (2.62 mg/L and 0.343 mg/L), all others were non-detect, 17% failure rate

Lead: 22 tests, 5 failures, 22.7% failure rate, Average result: 0.0104 mg/L

Arsenic: 7 tests, 0 failures, Average result: Non-detect, 0% failure rate

Gross Alpha: 5 tests, 0 failures, Average result: 1.28 pCi/L, 0% failure rate

Radon in Water: 3 tests, 0 failures, Average result: 391.9 pCi/L, 0% failure rate

VOCs: 5 tests, 0 failures, all were non-detect, 0% failure rate

Pesticides: 2 tests, 0 failures, all were non-detect, 0% failure rate

Nickel: 1 test, 0 failures, results were non-detect, 0% failure rate